



WORKSHOP 5

TORN NEWSPAPER BUILDINGS: ARCHITECTURE EXPLORATION

Although many of us now get our news online, it is not too difficult to find a free source for yesterday's newspaper. Your local corner store might be happy to offload, if you ask!

Cheap, if not free, easy to rip and cut, and full of interesting texture through text, newspaper is one of those art room essentials that is always good to have on hand.

What's the challenge for this project? Rip! This is all about creating wobbly, irregular, ripped pieces that get collaged into a shape. I like to precut my newspaper into strips or squares, even for a project like this. A large sheet of newspaper can be daunting for any age, and I prefer to edit away any photos or graphics before children start working on the project. I did this workshop with older kids, ages seven to nine, but there is no reason this couldn't easily be adapted for younger artists. With younger children, you may need to help guide fingers into a ripping position: that's pincher fingers on both sides. Pull one hand forward and one back and rip away.

If you're interested in another newspaper collage project, check out Workshop 9 in chapter 5.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- black construction paper for a work surface
- precut newspaper strips or squares
- chalk markers
- precut tissue paper or other scraps of paper
- glue sticks
- a bit of extra colored construction paper (Scraps are perfect.)
- scissors, for later



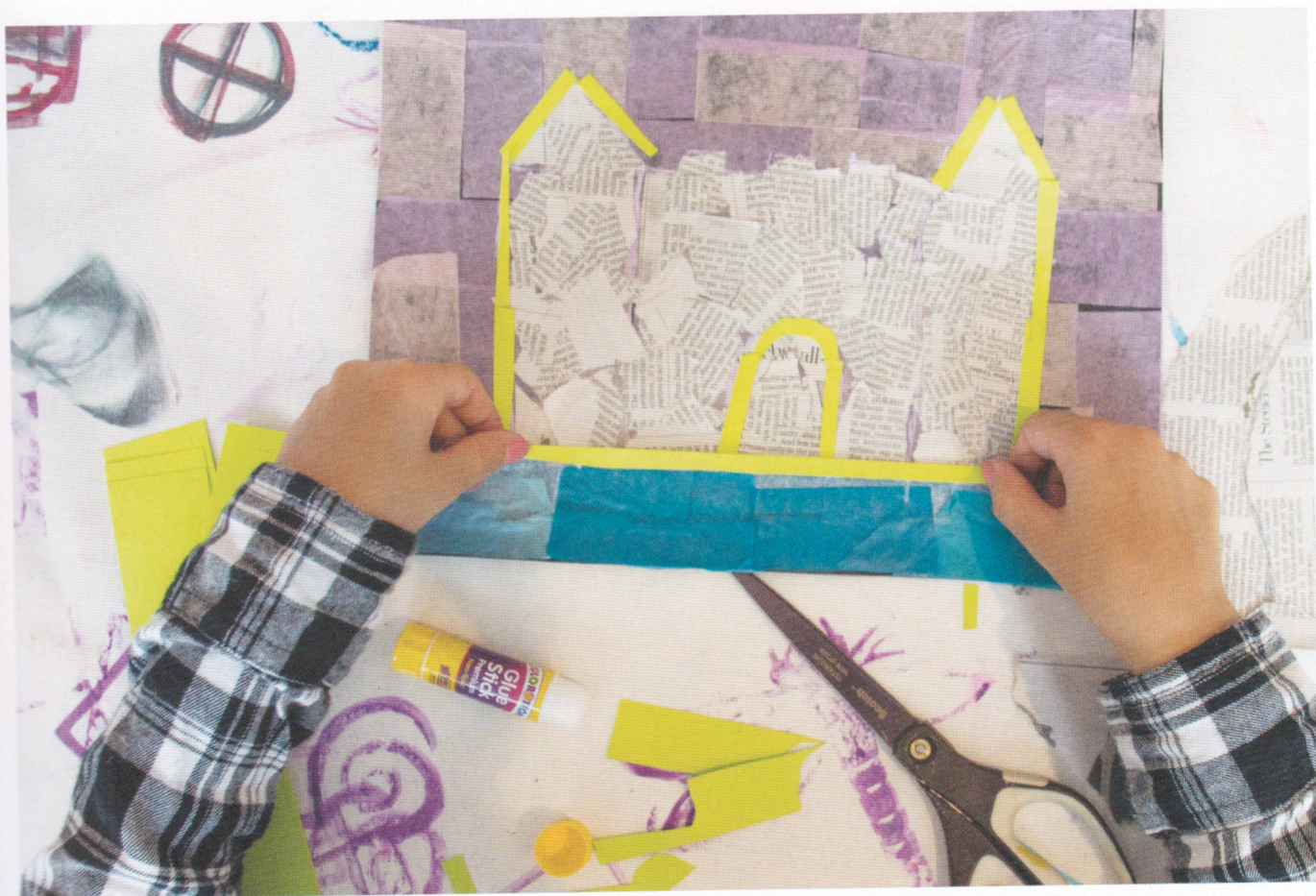


THE PROCESS

1. Set out a black sheet of paper for each artist, the newspaper strips, and chalk markers.
2. Invite children to look at pictures of architecture. Or, ask children to imagine a building and all of the shapes that make up that building.
3. Ask the children to draw their shapes onto the black paper with the chalk markers. They're opaque and create a nice guide for where to lay down the bits of newspaper.
4. Have everyone get shredder fingers ready and begin ripping and tearing the tissue paper, which will fill the background of the scene.
5. Once each child has plenty of ripped tissue paper, have them start filling in the space around their building with it. Some children in this workshop preferred covering a large space with glue stick and laying down big sections at once, while others switched back and forth.



6. Now, it's time to fill in the building with ripped newspaper. Rip plenty of pieces and begin fitting them together like a puzzle inside the shapes. Children can layer, leave space between or whatever they like!
7. The last step comes from one of the kids participating in this workshop. She noticed that her building was not really standing out, so she used scissors to snip little strips of construction paper, creating a collage border that really helped the shapes pop.



For younger children, use larger pieces of both tissue and newspaper and have lots of shapes to offer.

FOLLOW-UP THOUGHTS

I love that Maya, one of the children in this workshop, noticed that her shapes were not standing out and added a bold collage border. It is so important to encourage autonomy and problem solving in art making. A few changes and she was satisfied with her piece!

OTHER IDEAS TO TRY

- This workshop does not have to be about architecture! Children can draw any shape and fill it in with the ripped newspaper. I'm imagining scaly or feathered animals, simple geometric shapes,

or for younger children, collaging right on top of a line that swirls around the paper.

- For extra details, try using a contrasting paper as a collage material on top. Try shiny foil windows or hole-punched magazine owl eyes.
- For younger children (even toddlers and pre-schoolers), practice ripping and gluing without worrying about a shape to fill.

